**Red Ribbon Express Programme at National Level**

†2337. MS SUSHILA TIRIYA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 33 per cent of AIDS patients are youth of the country between the age group of 15 to 29 years;

(b) the status of Red Ribbon Express Programme formulated for creating AIDS awareness by National AIDS Control Organization (NACO);

(c) whether Government would publicise the said programme at national level by advertising the same on railway coaches and buses; and

(d) if so, by when scheme would be formulated for the said purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Ministry of Railways and National AIDS Control Organization, MOH & FW is under consideration for creating awareness through red ribbon express programme.

(c) and (d) Red Ribbon Express (RRE) will be widely publicized through various media channels. The media plan in this regard will be finalized as soon as the RRE operational plan is finalized.

**Policy for health requirement of senior citizens**

2338. DR. PRABHA THAKUR:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any policy to address the specific health requirements of senior citizens;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) which are the resource agencies in such a programme;

(e) considering the high cost of old age health complications, whether Government have created any financial package for the senior citizens and if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI):(a) to (f) Government of India announced the National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP) in 1999.

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is the nodal agency for implementation of the National Policy for older persons. The NPOP provides for the following to fulfil its objectives:

1. Financial security through old age pension scheme for poor and destitute elderly, creating opportunities for skill upgradation, continued education and self employment, better return on savings and higher rebate in tax and concessional fare for the elderly.
2. Health security by strengthening and reorienting services at primary health care level, promoting the creation of health facilities through NGOs, implementing insurance linked health scheme.
3. Recognising shelter as basic human need earmarking houses/ housing site for the elderly belonging to lower income groups special consideration under schemes like Indira Awas Yojana for elderly in the category of BPL, loans at resonable interest etc.
4. Education.
5. Welfare & Institutional care.
6. Legal safeguards -protection of life and property.
7. Taining of manpower.
8. Media-to identify emerging issues and area of action and promoting inter generational bonds.

Government of India, with financial support from WHO, has undertaken programmes for training of doctors, nurses and health care workers in health care of the elderly. Various training modules and self care modules have also been published.

Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment under the National Policy for Older Persons has provided for various schemes of financial security for the elderly.

**Public health schools**

2339. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have finally decided to set-up public health schools in the country in the near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the States where such schools are expected to be set up particularly in Uttar Pradesh;

(c) how far such schools shall be superior to the medical colleges as on today; and

(d) the expected number of doctors to be trained by such schools annually?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI):(a) to (d) The Government has decided to support the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) in setting up world class Institutes of Public Health in India. PHFI is an autonomous Public-Private partnership wherein the Government of India proposes to continue as one time grant upto Rs. 65 crore to the initial Rs. 200 crore PHFI corpus, whereas another one-third will come from Bill & Melinua Gates Foundation - and the remaining from high net worth corporates/individuals, both in India and abroad.

It is initially proposed to set up two schools. The exact location where the schools are to be set up would be decided by PHFI.

PHFI is an initiative to bridge the gap between the requirements and availability of trained personnel in public health and to effectively promote public health management. It will not only train health